

REMARKS

Claims 18, 20, 21, 23, 31, 33, 36, 51 and 52 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1-17, 19, 22, 24-30, 32, 34-35, and 37-50 have been canceled by this or previous amendment without prejudice to their assertion in continuing application. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 18, 20, 21, 23, 31, 33, 36, 51 and 52.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 31, 33 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Hardy et al (Journal of Virology 77(3): 2029-2037, February 2003) in view of Zhong et al. (Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy 47(8): 2674-2681, August 2003) and Mueller et al. (Journal of Biochemistry 261(25):11756-11764, September 1986). While Applicants contend the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are non-obvious, the claims have been canceled to advance prosecution.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. As all rejected claims have been canceled, Applicants request a speedy issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

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Respectfully submitted,
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